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Three Members of a Major PCP, Heroin, and Cocaine Drug-Trafficking Organization Found Guilty of Federal Charges

WASHINGTON - Three members of a major PCP, heroin and cocaine drug-trafficking organization have been found guilty of federal drug trafficking charges, U.S. Attorney Jeffrey A. Taylor, Joseph Perschini, Jr., Assistant Director in Charge of the Washington Field Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Cathy L. Lanier, Chief of the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD), and George Walsh, U.S. Marshal for the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia, U.S. Marshals Service (USMS), announced today.

Late yesterday, in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia, John Henry Smith, 71, of the 3700 block of Grant Place, NE, Washington, D.C., Herbert Young, 56, of the 2500 block of Q Street, SE, Washington, D.C., and Joe Brown, Jr., 37, of the 900 block of 21st Street, NE, Washington, D.C., were found guilty of Conspiracy to Distribute and Possession with Intent to Distribute Heroin. Smith was also convicted of weapons offenses and Possession with Intent to Distribute over 100 grams of Heroin. Young was convicted of weapons related offenses, and Possession with Intent to Distribute Heroin, and Crack-Cocaine. The Honorable Thomas F. Hogan presided over the 13-day trial.

According to the evidence introduced at trial, the defendants received wholesale quantities of heroin from co-conspirator Lonnell Glover and then distributed the heroin to other drug traffickers in the community between 2005 and 2007.

The Court set sentencing for July 24, 2009. At sentencing, Smith faces a mandatory-minimum sentence 25 years of imprisonment with a maximum sentence of up to life

imprisonment; Young faces a mandatory-minimum sentence of 15 years imprisonment with a maximum sentence of life imprisonment; and Brown faces to up to 20 years imprisonment.

The investigation was a High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) and Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force (OCDETF) investigation. The case arose from a joint law enforcement operation targeting the narcotics trade in the Washington, D.C. area. This operation resulted in the indictment of 28 individuals who were responsible for trafficking Phencyclidine, also known as PCP, heroin, and cocaine by transporting it to Washington, D.C., and selling it in the Washington, D.C. area.

On June 12, 2007, a federal grand jury indicted the defendants with conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute and to distribute one kilogram or more of PCP and heroin. The joint investigation of the FBI, MPD, and USMS, involved five wiretaps and approximately 20 search warrants.

In announcing the verdicts, U.S. Attorney Taylor, FBI Assistant Director in Charge Persichini, MPD Chief Lanier, and U.S. Marshal Walsh praised the efforts of all the law enforcement officers who participated in the investigation. They also cited the superior efforts of United States Attorney's Office trial team.

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